

Public Comment: Anonymous – June 10, 2021

Why do people bash the Probation Department? As a whole, we have had numerous success stories over the years, too many to count. I have worked with youth, families, and community-based organizations for the past 30 years, as have many, many officers over the years of service. Unfortunately, our successes have not been publicized. We have saved the lives of many youth, helped to gain employment for their families, worked holistically with the families of justice involved youth....siblings, aunts, uncles and neighbors. We have provided family counseling, individual counseling, afterschool programming, provided clothing and food vouchers, held youth accountable to fulfill their court orders including obtaining attainable grades academically, cease gang activity, cease substance use and ensure the youth engages in substance abuse counseling, submit to drug tests, provided assistance with homework, sat in on Individualized Education Plans for youth whether or not the parent was present. We have assisted justice involved youth in obtaining employment, filling out employment and college applications, paying towards their restitution and acknowledging their victims, we have assisted in coaching sports teams, providing summer activities and field trips, securing tickets to Lakers, Dodgers, Pantages, Pasadena Playhouse, Big Bear Snow days, Beach trip including volleyball and a cookout, we have accompanied youth to court appearances on their behalf, we have monitored their academic success so that they could catch up on credits in order to graduate with the class they should have walked with so their parents could watch the graduation. We have driven youth all over the county to submit job applications, attend interviews, ensure they arrive safely at meetings.

I believe a sub-committee of Deputy Probation Officers at every level should be maintained for consultation purposes. at the table in the best interest of the youth/family we are working with.